

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:****Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)**

1 3. (Original) A moveable pallet for firmly holding a surgical stapling cartridge as  
2 drivers are inserted therein, the pallet comprising:

3 (a) a base having a lower surface for seating on a conveyor, and an upper surface  
4 having an elongated cartridge region;

5 (b) a first cartridge-retaining lip member movably mounted to the base on a first  
6 side of the cartridge region, said first lip member being biased toward the  
7 cartridge region and having a lip extending from the lip member into the cartridge  
8 region; and

9 (c) a second cartridge-retaining lip member mounted to the base on a second side  
10 of the cartridge region, said lip member having a lip extending from the lip  
11 member into the cartridge region.

1 4. (Original) The pallet in accordance with claim 3, wherein the cartridge region is an  
2 elongated slot formed between the lip members for holding the cartridge.

1 5. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 4, wherein the second cartridge-  
2 retaining lip member is movably mounted to the base and biased toward the slot.

1 6. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 5, further comprising a gap formed  
2 between the first and second lip members and adapted to receive a tongue that is inserted  
3 upwardly through an aperture in the base and seating against opposing surfaces of the lip  
4 members and displacing the lip members away from the slot.

1 7. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 5, further comprising a finger mounted  
2 to the base near a first longitudinal end of the slot, said finger extending upwardly from  
3 the base for seating in a recess of said cartridge.

1 8. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 7, wherein the lip members are  
2 slidably mounted within chambers formed in the base.

1 9. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 8, further comprising chamber cover  
2 panels mounted to the base over the chambers, said chamber cover panels having upper  
3 surfaces.

1 10. (Original) The pallet in accordance with claim 9, wherein said cover panel upper  
2 surfaces define seating surfaces for seating against stops and vertically positioning the  
3 pallet.

1 11. (Original) The pallet in accordance with claim 7, further comprising at least one  
2 tapered cavity formed in the lower surface of the base for receiving a tapered tip and  
3 horizontally positioning the pallet.

1 12. (Original) A moveable pallet for firmly holding a surgical stapling cartridge as  
2 drivers are inserted therein, the pallet comprising:

3 (a) a base having a lower surface for seating on a conveyor;

4 (b) an elongated slot formed in an upper surface of the base for holding the  
5 cartridge;

6 (c) a first cartridge-retaining lip member movably mounted to the base on a first  
7 side of the slot, said first lip member being biased toward the slot and having a lip  
8 extending into the slot;

9 (d) a second cartridge-retaining lip member movably mounted to the base on a  
10 second side of the slot, said second lip member being biased toward the slot and  
11 having a lip extending into the slot;

12 (e) a gap formed between the first and second lip members and adapted to receive  
13 a tongue inserted upwardly through an aperture in the base, for seating against

14        opposing surfaces of the lip members and displacing the lip members away from  
15        the slot; and  
16        (f) a finger mounted to the base near a first longitudinal end of the slot, said finger  
17        extending upwardly from the base for seating within a recess of said cartridge.

1    13. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 12, further comprising first and  
2    second chambers formed in the base on the first and second sides of the slot,  
3    respectively, said first and second chambers housing the first and second lip members,  
4    respectively.

1    14. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 13, further comprising at least one  
2    tapered cavity formed in the lower surface of the base for receiving a foot for positively  
3    positioning the pallet horizontally.

1    15. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 14, further comprising at least one  
2    vertical registration surface for seating against at least two registration arms for positively  
3    positioning the pallet vertically.

1    16. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 15, further comprising chamber cover  
2    panels mounted to the base over the chambers, wherein upper surfaces of the cover  
3    panels comprise said at least one vertical registration surface.

**Claims 17 - 34 (Cancelled)**